

I commend those involved for their efforts to keep Dade City vibrant and unique with its quaint shops and small town atmosphere.

RECOGNIZING BETTE PETERSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Bette Peterson of Fresno, CA for her tireless service to her community and selfless giving to philanthropic causes throughout California's San Joaquin Valley. In recognition of her devoted service, the City of Fresno proclaimed May 1st, 2007 as "Bette Peterson Day."

Bette Peterson was born on October 30th, 1922 to Jean and Freda Johnson. Throughout her life, Ms. Peterson embarked on many adventures but not until 1975 did an adventurous life being to flourish rapidly beginning with her marriage to Dr. Robert Billings, and shortly thereafter, the creation of the Poppy Lane Publishing Company.

After establishing her publishing company, she authored *Beginning Reading at Home*, a book designed to help young children develop and explore reading. In addition, Poppy Lane Publishing Company has published numerous books by local authors since 1976, opening up eyes to the wealth of literary talent in the San Joaquin Valley.

Founded in 1988 by Bette and her husband Dr. Robert Billings, the Billings Independent and Responsible Foundation continues to assist many charitable causes. Most recently, Habitat for Humanity was presented with a one-hundred thousand dollar contribution to help many achieve the dream of homeownership.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Bette Peterson for her tireless service to her community. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing her tremendous example.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I was proud to stand up for the equal protection of all Americans by opposing H.R. 1592, the so called "Hate Crimes Bill." I abhor bigotry and discrimination, and I look forward to an America where no one is physically harmed for any reason. However, creating a special protected class within this country is poor public policy and contrary to the founding principle that all Americans are equal in front of the law.

First, this bill is unnecessary. State and local laws already provide criminal penalties for the violence addressed by the new Federal crimes defined in H.R. 1592. Many of the current state and local laws carry stricter penalties than the proposed language in H.R. 1592. State and local law enforcement agencies and courts already have the capability to

enforce those penalties and are doing so effectively. The proof is that the most recent FBI Uniform Crime Report shows that bias-motivated crimes are decreasing. In fact, less than 17% of all law enforcement agencies reported a single hate crime in 2005. No evidence exists that states and localities are failing to prosecute hate crimes under existing statutes. There is simply no need for the Federal government to impinge on the manner in which state and local agencies are attacking these concerns.

Second, there are Constitution questions concerning this bill. The 14th Amendment affords equal protection under the law to all citizens. H.R. 1592 defies this principle by ranking victims according to nebulous categories like "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" that are based on behavior and are not easily definable. All violent crimes are unacceptable, regardless of the victim, and should be punished firmly.

It is ironic that this bill came to the floor on the National Day of Prayer. I am worried that this bill will unfairly target people of faith. Under this bill, Christians and clergy may be targets for prosecution if their traditional teachings on sexuality are considered an inducement to violence of people based on "sexual orientation" or "gender identity" whether real or perceived. Typically, members would have the opportunity to offer amendments to fix omissions such as this. Unfortunately, the Democrat leadership railroaded this bill through the floor with absolutely no opportunity to offer amendments, denying us the opportunity to protect traditional American values.

Instead of passing laws which violate longstanding principles of good government, we must instead continue in our efforts to make sure that criminals understand their behavior will not be tolerated. Individuals caught committing a crime must understand that conviction will be certain, sentencing will be swift and punishment will be severe. Creating classes of victims, as this bill surely does, based on broad indefinable categories makes certain citizens more equal than others, substitutes a federal mandate for local expertise, and fails to protect traditional American values.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA RILEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Patricia Riley, a longtime Las Vegas educator and school administrator.

Patricia was a longtime elementary school teacher with the Clark County School District before joining the staff of Hillcrest Academy in 1999. She earned a Bachelor's degree in human development and early childhood education from the University of Nebraska in 1970 and subsequently earned a Master's degree in education curriculum and instruction from UNLV in 1980.

For over two decades Patricia has been designing curriculum for public and private schools for adults and children. Her career as an educator began as a fifth grade teacher in

Grand Island, Nebraska. She later went on to teach math and reading to Army soldiers at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina from 1974-1976. Patricia subsequently moved to Las Vegas in 1978 and operated two preschool through kindergarten private schools from 1979 to 1984 both in the Spring Valley and Green Valley areas. Patricia left education, pursued a career in real estate and later came back to teach first and second grade at the Mack Elementary School in Henderson, Nevada, where she stayed until moving over to the Hillcrest Academy. After founding Hillcrest Academy and operating the school for over 7 years, Patricia sold the Academy and stayed on as a consultant.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend, Patricia Riley. Patricia is a truly gifted educator and has enriched countless lives. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to educational excellence and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR KENNETH LINDSAY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday May 7, 2007

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenneth Lindsay, a most remarkable and distinguished constituent of mine. Mr. Lindsay is one of about a dozen living members of the Monument Men, who worked to save tens of thousands of works of art during World War II. Mr. Lindsay is also a Binghamton University Professor Emeritus of Art History where he chaired the Art History Department for 17 years.

Mr. Lindsay's love of art and art history first developed while he was a student at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He signed up with the Army's Signal Corps and was preparing to go overseas in 1942. Catching scarlet fever delayed his deployment, but it resulted in his eventual assignment to the Monument Men after Victory in Europe Day in 1945. Mr. Lindsay first served as a technical corporal in London and was later sent to Omaha Beach.

Following V-E Day, the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section of the U.S. Army, whose members were nicknamed the Monument Men, worked to save and preserve works of art that had been seized during the Nazi rule of Germany. Mr. Lindsay was assigned to the Monument Men in Wiesbaden, Germany in 1945. He personally handled some of Europe's most valuable works of art. A noted piece that passed through Mr. Lindsay's hands is the Holy Crown of Hungary, one of the most famous crowns of the Middle Ages. One of the most memorable pieces that he processed was a statue of the Egyptian Queen Nefertiti, which was stolen by the Germans in 1912.

Wars present perilous challenges for art, and the art world is indeed fortunate that Mr. Lindsay was available to help put the pieces back together in post-war Germany. Without the dedicated work from men such as Mr. Lindsay, a large amount of the world's culture would have been lost. Mr. Lindsay's work in World War II and as a teacher of art history has given future generations the opportunity to enjoy history and the rich cultures across the world.